



NEWS RELEASE

05-184

Date: Friday, June 17, 2005
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP TO TWO SAN BERNARDINO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

San Bernardino - Caltrans awards scholarship to two San Bernardino students in honor of a man they never met. Mr. John Cowgill (ko-gill), a man who helped pioneer what we now know as Caltrans District 8, is being remembered through a scholarship. In 1925, John Cowgill joined Caltrans in San Bernardino, formally known as the Division of Highways. He had a successful engineering career with Caltrans, which lasted 43 years. John worked on a variety of projects and helped establish many of the state routes within District 8, which later became our freeways and interstates.

After his passing at the age of 100, Caltrans was contacted by Larry Weiman a former employee who worked under John and presently involved with the California Transportation Foundation (CTF). CTF is a non-profit organization dedicated to the recognition and promotion of transportation. Together CTF, family and friends raised approximately \$15,000 to be put toward the scholarship. In memory of his dedication and devotion to transportation Caltrans wanted to support this effort, citing the importance to portraying that in which John stood for. Caltrans Deputy Director for Administration, Sharon Phillips said, "This scholarship is one way Caltrans can support the future leaders in transportation who may some day turn their valuable education and talents into building better transportation systems for the future."

Caltrans offered the scholarship to students who are seniors at San Bernardino High School, the same school his daughter attended. The committee heading the scholarship interviewed 10 students whose focus of their future goals is in transportation. The candidates were very exceptional, making the final decision difficult. In the end, the committee decided to award two of the candidates with a scholarship. The first recipients of the John Cowgill Scholarship are; Cindy Hager and Candance Beckner both were awarded \$500.00. The scholarship was presented to both students at San Bernardino High School on Thursday, June 9, 2005.

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Caltrans strives to encourage students to pursue careers in transportation. There are a wide variety of career opportunities that go beyond the field of engineering. Education in the fields of Environmental Planning, Business Administration, Communications, Information Technology, Landscape Architecture and Right of Way Appraisal and Acquisition are some of the many career choices in transportation.

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